

For information on becoming a *Dental Assistant* see **Sources of additional information** within this brochure.

**For information on youth employment opportunities**, contact a career counselor at your high school or employment counselor or job and information center coordinator at your local NH Employment Security Office.

Berlin (752-5500)

151 Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 159, 03570-0159

Claremont (543-3111)

404 Washington Street, P.O. Box 180, 03743-0180

Concord (228-4100)

10 West Street, P.O. Box 1140, 03302-1140

Conway (447-5924)

518 White Mountain Highway, 03818-4205

Keene (352-1904)

109 Key Road, 03431-3926

Laconia (524-3960)

426 Union Avenue, Suite 3, 03246-2894

Lebanon (448-6340)

85 Mechanic Street, 03766-1506

Littleton (444-2971)

646 Union Street, Suite 100, 03561-5314

Manchester (627-7841)

300 Hanover Street, 03104-4957

Nashua (882-5177)

6 Townsend West, 03063-1217

Portsmouth (436-3702)

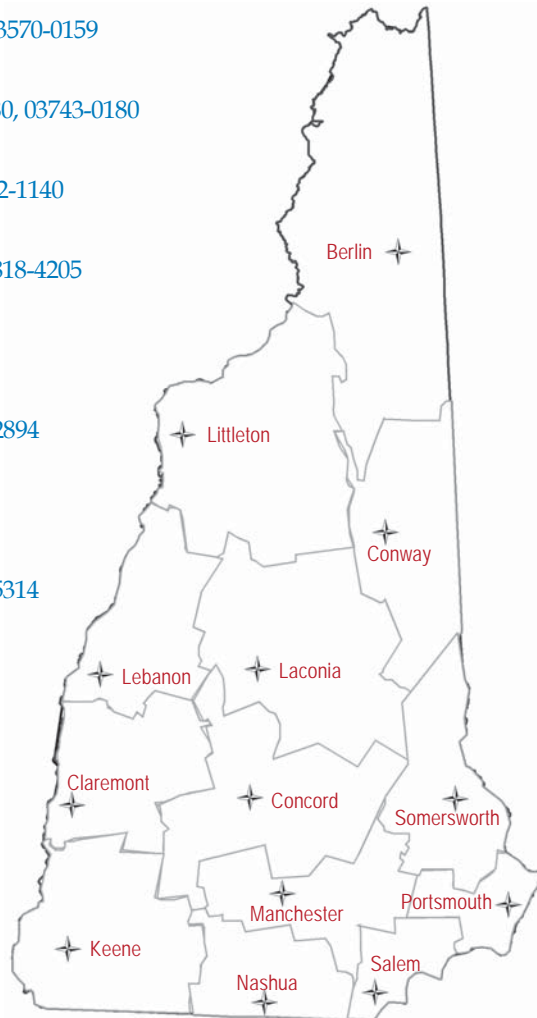
2000 Lafayette Road, 03801-5673

Salem (893-9185)

29 South Broadway, 03079-3026

Somersworth (742-3600)

6 Marsh Brook Drive, 03878-1595



For more information on this series of brochures, or to find out about our other products, contact us at:

New Hampshire Employment Security  
Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau  
32 South Main Street, Concord, NH 03301-4857

Phone: (603) 228-4124, E-mail: [elmi@nhes.nh.gov](mailto:elmi@nhes.nh.gov), Web site: [www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi](http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi)

SOC 31-9091  
NHCRN 03/09

# So, you want to be a ...



## Dental Assistant Health Science

Projected to be among the fastest growing occupations  
(New Hampshire Occupational Projections, 2006-2016)

### Here are a few things you should know.



Your gateway to New Hampshire workforce and career information



**You'll want to know a few things about this career**

**Average Hourly Wage**

\$18.58

**Expected 10 year Growth**

35%

**Average Annual Openings**

65

**Training/Education Needed**

On-the-Job or Military Training, or Apprenticeship  
College-level training is encouraged. Most assistants learn their skills on the job, although an increasing number are trained in dental-assisting programs; most programs take one year or less to complete. High school students interested in a career as a dental assistant should take courses in biology, chemistry, health, and office practices. To see if programs are available in NH go to <http://nhetwork.nhes.state.nh.us/nhetwork/> (NHnetwork)

**Basic Skills**

Reading, listening, speaking

**Job Skills**

Active listening, service orientation, speaking, equipment selection, reading comprehension, social perceptiveness, instructing, judgment, equipment maintenance, and decision-making

**So, you want to be a ...**



## Dental Assistant

**Projected to be among the fastest growing occupation** (New Hampshire Occupational Projections, 2006-2016)

### Tasks

Source: O\*Net Online

1. Prepare patient, sterilize and disinfect instruments, set up instrument trays, prepare materials, and assist dentist during dental procedures.
2. Expose dental diagnostic x-rays.
3. Record treatment information in patient records.
4. Take and record medical and dental histories and vital signs of patients.
5. Provide postoperative instructions prescribed by dentist.
6. Assist dentist in management of medical and dental emergencies.
7. Pour, trim, and polish study casts.
8. Instruct patients in oral hygiene and plaque control programs.
9. Make preliminary impressions for study casts and occlusal registrations for mounting study casts.
10. Clean and polish removable appliances.

**Interests**  
(Holland Code)

**CRS**

(Conventional, Realistic, Social)

**Interest Area**

Health Science

**Working Conditions**

Comfortable, well lighted clean environment.  
(Follows safety procedures to minimize any risks to themselves or patients)

**Average Work Week**

35-40 hours

(Some may work Saturdays and/or evenings)

**Sources of Additional Information**

NH Employment Security  
(Contact office nearest you or go online to [www.nh.gov/nhes/](http://www.nh.gov/nhes/))

Commission on Dental Accreditation  
American Dental Association  
211 E. Chicago Ave, Ste 1814  
Chicago, IL 60611  
[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

American Dental Assistants Association  
35 E Walker Dr., Suite 1730  
Chicago, IL 60601  
[www.dentalassistant.org](http://www.dentalassistant.org)